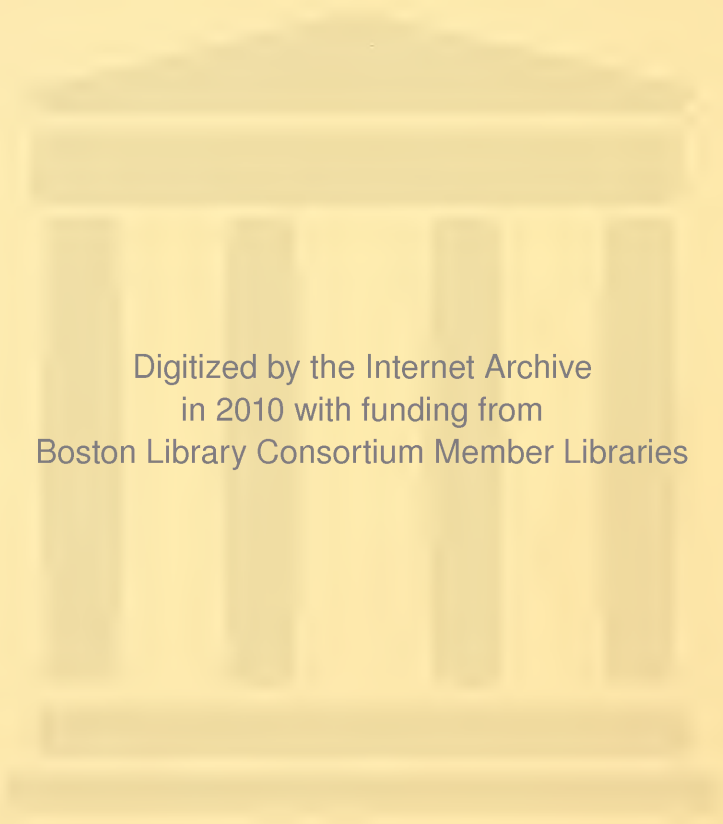


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REPORT  
OF THE  
COMMISSIONERS  
ON  
WAR RECORDS.

JANUARY, 1912.



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BOSTON:  
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1912.

APPROVED BY  
THE STATE BOARD OF PUBLICATION.

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

## REPORT.

The Commissioners on War Records have the honor to submit the following report: —

The Bureau of War Records has probably accomplished all that could have been done this year, considering the “casualties” (to use a military term) which have come upon it.

Every one of its three commissioners died early in 1911. The chairman had indeed given place to his successor, but General Brigham held that position until the inauguration of His Excellency the present Governor, on the fifth day of January. His death was followed in April by that of Colonel Olin, the Secretary of the Commonwealth; and later came that of the Auditor, Mr. Turner. The Board, as a whole, were keenly interested in the work of the bureau, and gave it their most earnest support; but the irreparable loss was the death of Colonel Olin. His knowledge of the importance and scope of the undertaking was such as no other man had. He had lately completed the records of the revolutionary soldiers and sailors, which took seventeen years to finish under his direction, and he had expressed his surprise that this bureau's work was going on as rapidly as it was, and said to the compiler, some years ago, that it was further advanced by two years than he had thought possible. He was a master of the details and requirements of such a history.

The principal lady clerk resigned last May because of incurable disability. Another well-trained and valuable clerk left to be married. Two more have been transferred to departments paying higher salaries than this bureau can afford. These have been replaced by the best girls available, but it

takes much time to train new clerks for work so unfamiliar as that on military affairs.

One of the clerks in the service of the bureau since its inception was so injured by a surgical operation performed by an incompetent physician that he has been unable to work more than half the time for many months, although very much interested in the undertaking, and struggling to do his part with the same faithful courage which actuated him and his two brothers, all brave soldiers in the fine 36th Mass. Infantry. He has been retired from service.

The work of the year has been the close examination and selection of valuable material from one of the most important of all regimental rolls, which gives information of indispensable character — the monthly reports of organizations. It has been in the hands of the chief clerk, whose ability and thoroughness are of the highest order. It is not only important to select from these rolls all facts regarding men which have a bearing upon the history of their service; it is equally so to eliminate everything that has little or no value, and that can only be regarded as taking up valuable time to no purpose. This has been faithfully done. It is slow work at best; and, like the greater portion of these old rolls, very trying to the eyesight. The results of the year's operations in this line consist of the carding of 11,730 men, accounted for on the rolls of 8 regiments, from the 20th to the 28th (inclusive).

The muster-out rolls of all cavalry, heavy artillery, light batteries, and the 100-day terms of service in the army of the militia, or "M. V. M.," regiments of the Commonwealth, the 5th, 6th, 8th, 42d and 60th, have been carded, to the number of 31,220 men.

Enlistment and re-enlistment papers of veteran soldiers number in cards 2,689 men. The carding of sundry company and individual or collective lists of men, also of many official miscellaneous papers selected from a mass of material in the regimental steel boxes of the archives, number 5,474 men. (The contents of these steel boxes, consisting of every description of official papers of value, as well as other doc-

uments of no worth, require, like the monthly reports, careful examination by the experienced and competent clerk. an ex officer of artillery, whose service in his regiment has well fitted him for careful work in this line.) The cards of the muster-out rolls have been carefully read over by the compiler himself and experienced clerks, compared with the Adjutant General's record books, and all changes and errors noted. These were very numerous. The numbers thus compared and corrected were of some 40 regiments and 16 batteries, 89,061 cards. There have been sorted, arranged alphabetically and by companies in regiments, in preliminary preparation for publication when ordered by the Legislature, also all discrepancies and blunders noted and all errors possible to be corrected at present 315,863 cards. Total number compared and read over, sorted, arranged in rosters and partially corrected, 404,924 cards. Total carding in 1911, 45,639.

#### NAVY.

Letters written to the Navy Department from Dec. 1, 1910, to Dec. 1, 1911, 439. Total letters written to town clerks, Grand Army posts and others, including letters to the Navy Department, 583. Corrections on Navy Index, 50; connections (for more than one service), 80. New names of men never before entered on rolls, 6. Letters received from the Navy Department, 431; from town clerks, Grand Army posts and others, 152. Many inquiries were answered personally by the sailor or his relatives after questioning from the bureau.

Many doubtful or obscure cases where transfer from army to navy were concerned have been cleared up to full satisfaction this year.

The Navy Department has continued to favor the bureau with all — and more — information than asked for in many cases, and the number of unsettled records of sailors is diminishing to a comparatively negligible quantity, for, of course, there are quite a number of sailors and marines in the navy as well as soldiers in the army who, through

desertion or from other causes disappeared, leaving no trace. Many enlisted under a false name. Many soldiers were left dead in the forests and wilderness of the south, whom no comrade had seen to fall, and the bodies of the slain and some of the wounded and missing were devoured by the stray hogs and wild creatures of the woods. There are not a few cases, particularly of sailors, where the former Adjutant General's office was unable to get information although striving for many years, but which have been cleared by this bureau in from a few days up to say six months, through persistent effort.

Considering the changes in the personnel of clerks, and the rather remarkable amount of illness in others of the force during 1911, it looks as if there had been more accomplished than in any year up to this time.

GARDNER W. PEARSON.  
ALBERT P. LANGTRY,  
JOHN E. WHITE,

*Commissioners on War Records.*







REPORT  
OF THE  
COMMISSIONER  
ON  
WAR RECORDS.

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JANUARY, 1913.



BOSTON:  
WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,  
18 POST OFFICE SQUARE.  
1913.

APPROVED BY  
THE STATE BOARD OF PUBLICATION.

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

## REPORT.

I have the honor to submit my report for the year 1912 as Commissioner on War Records.

Under chapter 211, Acts of 1912, which follows, I became the sole commissioner, and assumed such duties on March 9, 1912.

### CHAPTER 211, ACTS OF 1912.

#### AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE PREPARATION AND PUBLICATION OF A RECORD OF MASSACHUSETTS SOLDIERS IN THE CIVIL WAR.

*Be it enacted, etc., as follows:*

SECTION 1. All the powers and duties heretofore vested in or exercised by the commission created by chapter four hundred and seventy-five of the acts of the year eighteen hundred and ninety-nine, as amended by chapter four hundred and ninety-one of the acts of the year nineteen hundred and eight and by chapter two hundred and forty-two of the acts of the year nineteen hundred and ten, are hereby transferred to and vested in the adjutant general, who is hereby constituted commissioner for the said purpose.

SECTION 2. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage. [*Approved March 9, 1912.*]

This followed a vote of the former commissioners, myself, the Secretary of State and the State Auditor, which directed me to prepare and submit to the Legislature a bill to substitute for the commission consisting of three members, as created by chapter 475 of the Acts of 1899, one of which the Adjutant General should be constituted sole commissioner.

Since that time I have conducted the work of this office through the medium of Col. Edward T. Bouvé, who has been

compiler and executive officer of the Bureau since 1900, in the beginning of which year the undertaking was entered upon. I have followed the work with great care this year, and am satisfied that it is being done in a thorough and businesslike manner, and I therefore adopt the following report of the compiler of war records as my own:—

BOSTON, Nov. 30, 1912.

Adjutant General GARDNER W. PEARSON, *Commissioner on War Records, Commonwealth of Massachusetts.*

GENERAL:— On account of the deaths of the late Secretary and of the late Auditor of the Commonwealth, the two gentlemen elected to succeed them became *ex officio* Commissioners on War Records, together with the chairman of the Board; but Messrs. Langtry and White begged that they might be allowed to decline this service, as they had had no experience whatever, and did not feel they could perform its duties satisfactorily to themselves and to the Commonwealth. The Legislature consequently decided to reconstitute the commission with only one member, and that one the Adjutant General, who was much better acquainted with the work of the Bureau of War Records than any other man. Consequently, the Adjutant General was very properly made the Commissioner on War Records. The result has been very satisfactory, as saving much time and unnecessary merely perfunctory work.

Before entering upon details I desire to express my great pleasure in being able to inform you that my late call upon The Adjutant General of the Army appears to have brought about, without doubt, all that could have been expected in a willingness to furnish such information as will enable the Bureau to get the final records of service of *all regular soldiers who served upon the quota of Massachusetts whom this Bureau knows to have been such.*

In this respect, however, their rolls are, and must remain in by far the great majority of cases, no more full than what exists here, for various reasons with which I do not care to burden this report. I think that it will doubtless be possible to get all “finals” of men transferred to or enlisted in the Veteran Reserve Corps, which cannot be otherwise obtained.

I have the honor to submit the following report of this Bureau for the year Dec. 1, 1911, to Dec. 1, 1912:—

Monthly reports of Massachusetts volunteers carded,	6,425
Muster-in, muster-out, deserters and miscellaneous papers (from the steel boxes in the archives),	78,268
Total carded,	84,693

Examining, verifying, comparing, sorting and grouping alphabetically by companies and regiments, battalions, batteries and independent companies, in preparation for publication (cards), . . . 647,012

Civil war certificates issued to veterans individually, and to department of State aid, military aid; for burial of veterans; for entrance to soldiers' homes; to widows and minor children of veterans, . . . 2,190

Total letters written, . . . . .	1,350
To Navy Department, . . . . .	329
To War Department, . . . . .	} 1,021
To Grand Army posts, . . . . .	
To city and town authorities, . . . . .	
To individuals, . . . . .	

There has been constant and almost daily correspondence with the Navy Department (principally with the Bureau of Navigation) concerning lacking records, names of ships sailed upon, and names false or incorrect (many sailors enlisted under names not their own, many "swapped" names for various reasons). Letters on these and other points to city and town clerks number 148. Much important information leading to correction of records has been found in them. Naval department letters in answer to inquiries have reported various instances where charges of desertion have been removed after a recent and exhaustive re-examination of such cases.

The 329 letters written to the Bureau of Navigation and to the Adjutant and Inspector of the Marine Corps have been met by replies to the number of 316 letters, correcting numerous errors and supplying omissions in names or services, adding many names of vessels served on never before known by this Bureau, and giving full records concerning soldiers transferred to the navy. There will be more of these.

There are still lacking at close of this year some 476 records of service of sailors and marines. It is probable that these may be the most difficult to obtain, but it is also likely that all or nearly all will be secured during the coming year. There are also quite a number of records yet to be obtained of the transfer of soldiers to the navy. As Massachusetts had approximately 36,000 naval enlistments, it will be seen that there is little left to be done in naval work.

The list of sailors serving from Massachusetts in the Spanish war numbers 2,402. These are final and probably correct and reliable, having been constructed so far as could be done in this Bureau, then to that extent accepted and completed by the Navy Department; all facts being added to them that could not, in the nature of the case, be supplied by the records of this Commonwealth.

There have been issued certificates of service in the Spanish war, of soldiers and sailors, 277.

A list of services of nearly 700 soldiers and sailors enlisting from or credited to the town of Blackstone was required by Representative

John F. Meaney of that town. This list was put into the hands of a capable and thoroughly reliable clerk of this Bureau, and she has done everything that could be done to perfect the records of service of these presumably Blackstone men who were in the army. It was a matter of some weeks' labor (such time as could be spared from what must be devoted to each day's programme of regular work, as had been laid out to the best advantage), and also of much difficulty, to ascertain the particulars of the service of many of these men; especially in the case of sailors. This part of the work was done by the naval clerk, who found it indispensable to devote almost his entire time for several days to it. The services of some of these men were impossible to find. They may have served under other than their proper names.

The steel boxes of the archives, numbering 127, contain masses of material which had to be carefully examined, much of it carded and more of it rejected. That which is found necessary to establish or to confirm records of soldiers has been sorted out and used to aid in the makeup of the military history of many men. While, as stated, most of these papers are valueless, the remainder are of much importance, giving facts not recorded even in the selected rolls which had been bound and kept, supposedly wholly authentic.

A large part of the principal work of 1912 has been on the contents of these steel boxes, and it is almost entirely finished.

The very important work of carding the monthly reports has progressed as rapidly as possible this year, still in the hands of the able and experienced chief clerk. The monthly reports of regiments finished are the 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22d, 23d, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32d, 33d, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th and 59th.

Fully half of the work on monthly reports consists of a careful examination of these rolls, in order to decide what is essential to record and what it would be waste of time to card, as the facts are often found already carded from other rolls.

The sorting and arranging of cards in preparation for publication is, as the figures show, the largest per annum work in that line that has been accomplished in any year. It may be remarked that this has been very useful and important in giving out certificates of service, which are called for in great numbers every year, and which are now made as far as may be from these corrected records rather than from the old record books, which have contained and yet contain innumerable errors. This has also been a very important matter, owing to the inquiries necessarily made daily by the Commissioners on Gratuity, and those incident to the increase of pension by Congress.

The certificates of service issued for all purposes would undoubtedly aggregate, since the civil war, between 150,000 and 200,000.

One striking instance of the impossibility of giving out correct certificates of service in some cases was the fact, discovered by this



Bureau, that a number of pages of the Adjutant General's record book of the 20th Regiment had been bound *with the records of some hundreds of men opposite to the names of other men altogether*, therefore having rendered it impossible to have given out a single certificate from these pages which could have possibly been correct; and yet doubtless many certificates have probably been furnished from these pages for forty years.

The chief clerk of this Bureau is the only man in the State House familiar with the organization and rosters of the Massachusetts soldiers in the Spanish war. The naval clerk of the Bureau is equally acquainted with the services of the sailors and marines who served from this Commonwealth in that war. Both are veterans, and are thoroughly posted in all work of this office. Consequently, when requests are received by the Adjutant General and Commissioner on War Records for certificates of service or information concerning men who served in that war, such requests are necessarily referred by the commissioner to this Bureau; and must be attended to by one of the above clerks at once.

There are many requests for certificates or for information from other departments, as well as from veterans of the civil war or their widows or representatives, received daily. These must have immediate and careful attention. This goes without saying, as neglect or discourtesy toward applicants would properly meet with severe condemnation from the Governor or Legislature on well-founded representations made of such neglect, discourtesy or delay. Such requests invariably receive prompt and courteous replies. It should be added that a very large proportion of the information required calls for investigation, and consequently correspondence in a majority of cases with the War or Navy Departments or the Adjutants General of other States. This has led to the clearing up and final disposition of the cases of thousands of soldiers and sailors. It should be added that all this work, in addition to the regular work of this Bureau, has been accomplished during the last year at an annual saving of expense of at least \$1,500 to the Commonwealth, compared to what it had ever cost before.

The passage of the Schofield bill, providing a \$125 gratuity to all soldiers and sailors who never received any bounty from this Commonwealth or any of its cities or towns, and the change in the pension laws providing for an increase of pension, brought a widespread demand for information from this Bureau for the services of soldiers and sailors which has greatly increased its work. By far the greater part of the information sought, and which the Bureau is obliged to write for to Washington, or in some cases to the military authorities of other States, or often to city or town clerks, or posts of the Grand Army, or to individuals, brings just the replies that correct records, which could not otherwise, perhaps, have been reached in a long time. Calls by veterans in person are made almost daily, and many of these men bring

discharge papers which complete their records. Most of those who call are men whose address or place of residence was not known and could not have been ascertained; and there has been a distinct gain in the receipt of information directly from old soldiers and sailors which would never have been available except from their personal calls.

There has been so much interest, and I may say loyalty, felt by nearly all engaged in this Bureau that some of the men have voluntarily cut out considerable portions of the vacation allowed by the Commonwealth. One of them has never taken any regular vacation. The compiler has been away on vacation only for four weeks one summer. He and others have worked many nights during these years for hours after the time of closing the office. No extra payment whatever has ever been asked or made for this overwork.

I have the honor to be, General,

Very respectfully,

EDWARD T. BOUVÉ,  
*Compiler of War Records.*

GARDNER W. PEARSON,  
*The Adjutant General, Commissioner on War Records.*

REPORT  
OF THE  
COMMISSIONER  
ON  
WAR RECORDS.

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JANUARY, 1914.



BOSTON:  
WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,  
32 DERNE STREET.  
1914.

APPROVED BY  
THE STATE BOARD OF PUBLICATION.

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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## REPORT.

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I have the honor to submit my report for the year 1913 as Commissioner on War Records.

I have conducted the work of the Bureau of War Records through the medium of Col. Edward T. Bouvé, the compiler and executive officer of the Bureau since 1900, in which year the undertaking was entered upon. Having followed the work with close attention I am satisfied that it is being done in a thorough and businesslike manner, and I consequently adopt the following report of the compiler of war records as my own: —

BOSTON, Nov. 30, 1913.

Adjutant General GARDNER W. PEARSON, *Commissioner on War Records, Commonwealth of Massachusetts.*

GENERAL: — I have the honor to submit the following report of this Bureau for the year Dec. 1, 1912, to Dec. 1, 1913: —

In annually reporting the progress of such an undertaking as that of the preparation and publication of the civil war records of Massachusetts soldiers and sailors by the Bureau of War Records, it is always necessary to refer to facts and conditions already brought to the attention of previous Legislatures, as, on account of the changes in the personnel of the General Court, many new members are unfamiliar with the object and conduct of the work.

It is desirable that the Legislature should understand that a work like that being done by this Bureau is one that, to be done thoroughly, should never be "rushed through."

No one who has not looked into this work carefully and frequently can form any idea of the difficulties attending the clearing up of the records of service of nearly 200,000 enlistments in the army and navy during the civil war.

In glancing backward over the course of the work it does not seem to the compiler, or to the earnest and very competent assistants in the

Bureau, that there is much, if anything, that could have been better done than has been accomplished according to the plan of action marked out in the outset under the original commissioners; although two of these had died and been replaced by others, until year before last the entire Board who were in office on the first of the year had died before the spring was over, and those who replaced these, *ex officio*, were men of ability and good judgment.

Reports of the progress were rendered at the end of each month, and this custom has been continued up to the present day. Thus the proceedings have been always fully under the eye of the commission, and never once has there been any adverse criticism regarding the execution of the plan adopted by the compiler, after he had learned from the Board what their ideas were as to the course of action desired.

The Bureau was favored by frequent visits of the commission, particularly on the part of Colonel Olin, who was at the same time supervising the records of service of the troops and sailors from Massachusetts who fought in the revolutionary war.

The Secretary himself was probably better fitted to judge of the course of action in this Bureau than any other man before or since engaged in similar work.

But the work and the manner of carrying it on had been satisfactory to the Board, and they *knew* that it was being faithfully and intelligently done, with no needless delay.

This thing I have said before and now say it again, — that when the committee of the Legislature went to the Secretary of the Commonwealth, Colonel Olin, asking him as an expert how long the work would take to finish, he replied, "Twenty-five years." Colonel Olin said to me some years before he died, "You are two years farther advanced than I thought you could be by this time." He knew what he was talking about; as previously remarked, he was then engaged upon the last portion of his work on the soldiers and sailors of Massachusetts who served in the revolutionary war, and the chief of his archive bureau, Mr. Tracy, was a man of thorough knowledge and ability. It took *seventeen* years of indefatigable labor to produce that work. The result is in 17 volumes of admirable character.

Now the work which this Bureau has had in hand is of much greater proportions than the revolutionary history, and yet I cannot see any reason at present why it will not be possible to take the first steps in publication in 1914, as I estimated in 1907 that it could be begun by that date. In fact, the sorting and placing for publication of the cards of the Massachusetts Volunteers has been going on for more than four years. The naval lists are yet further advanced. I hope to get a volume of these in the hands of the printer by or before the first day of March of the current year.



As stated in the annual report of the work of the year 1912, I had, while in Washington at Christmas time, called on The Adjutant General, U. S. A., and told him of my strong desire to complete the service records of the regular soldiers from Massachusetts whose final discharges were lacking, and the same in regard to the Veteran Reserves. My talk with General Andrews was very pleasant. I found him a genial, quiet gentleman, who seemed disposed to do all in his power to help the Commonwealth in its labors in these directions; but he remarked that he was new to the office, and wished me to talk with his chief clerk, Mr. Alonzo W. Shunk, for whom he at once sent. I soon found it impossible to make any arrangement to have the work done by one or more of the government clerks, for whose services I offered to pay any reasonable amount, as Mr. Shunk replied that they had no one to spare. I found it could, however, be arranged that I could send a duly accredited clerk from the War Records Bureau, or come myself, if I liked, and was promised every facility to attain my end. The work was so strenuous through the spring and summer, largely owing to the pressure to carry out the gratuity law, that I was unable to take up the matter until late this fall. As a man could not be spared from our small force, I decided to go myself, and started on November 6 for Washington, remaining there for three weeks, only returning in time to make up this annual report to The Adjutant General of Massachusetts.

Every courtesy and aid, as had been promised by General Andrews, and Mr. Shunk's extremely kind arrangements were all that could have been wished.

The result up to the present time is the full service and "finals" ("discharges" or deaths) of the ordnance sergeants, the noncommissioned officers, privates and artificers of the Ordnance Corps and the hospital stewards, who had served from this Commonwealth and to the credit of its cities and towns. The soldiers of these special branches of the army are first enlisted in regiments of artillery, cavalry or infantry, or the "general service," and subsequently transferred by "appointment" to the particular branch for which they are best fitted. There was not sufficient time in which to complete the records of the Engineer and Signal Corps, or to begin on the unfinished records of men in the regiments of either arm.

I arranged to return to Washington as soon as this report shall be in press, and push the work as rapidly as may be. This can be done much more easily and more quickly than what has been already accomplished, as familiarity with the methods and acquaintance with the full record in the books of each man increase the facility every day with which the work is handled.

The privilege of having a man from this Commonwealth permitted to visit the War Department and have free access to its records, in

order to complete its own rosters, will surely be appreciated by His Excellency and the General Court. Such permission has never before been accorded by the War Department, and it will greatly facilitate the work of this Bureau, which is now fast approaching completion.

In March, 1913, The Adjutant General directed the custodian of the archives to list all books and documents in the room containing them. Subsequently the commissioner wished me to give him a list of such volumes with contents as were in the steel closets, and of such papers as were in the steel boxes, as promised to be of so much value as to be held there subject to my order for examination and for carding if I should consider that they contained information likely to have bearing on the military history of soldiers and sailors. Of the list, "work to be done," furnished The Adjutant General April 1, 1913, work has been completed upon the following volumes and boxes:—

Credits for bounty, hospital stewards, U. S. A., 1 vol.  
Casualty reports, war regiments, 1 box loose papers.  
Discharges, stray loose papers, 1 box.  
Descriptive and elective rolls, United States artillery, 1 vol., and United States infantry, 1 vol.  
Enlistments, regular army, cavalry and general service, 1 vol.; infantry, 1 vol.  
Enlistments, regular army, bounty numbers, 5 vols.  
Enlistments in United States Engineer Corps and hospital stewards, U. S. A., 1 vol.  
Enlistments and election rolls, Ordnance Corps, 1 vol.  
Enlistments, United States Signal Corps, 1 vol.  
Furlough extended by Surgeon Dale, 2 vols.  
Men transferred from 2d Massachusetts Heavy Artillery to 17th Massachusetts Volunteers, 1 vol.  
Miscellaneous muster-in, 1863, 1 box.  
Veteran Reserve Corps enlistments, 4 vols.  
Veteran Reserve Corps enlistments, at Washington, 3 vols.  
Veteran Reserve Corps deaths, discharge and desertions, 1 vol.  
Washington enlistments, 2 vols.  
Congressional medals of honor, 2 vols.

These all had to be carefully examined and the part that was valueless eliminated and the portion that seemed of worth carded. I have examined and "called back" all of this work excepting such as I was compelled to leave, owing to more important matter which required immediate personal attention.

The monthly reports of soldiers recorded during 1913, leaving out all cases affording no information of value, were from the following organizations: 1st, 2d, 7th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th infantry regiments and 1st and 2d regiments of cavalry.



These reports are of much importance, as previously stated, and it is necessary to card all information that indicates occurrences of moment regarding any and all officers and soldiers; and of equal signification, to omit much that does not afford facts of value as to the individual's military record. As I have stated frequently in my report of each month to you, a careful examination of all monthly reports of regimental commanders is indispensable, in order to select what is to be recorded in the coming publication of this work and what rejected as valueless. Such examination is carried out in the case of all rolls and records of a nature requiring it.

Monthly reports of troops are especially valuable, containing, if carefully recorded, facts that help construct this military history of each officer and enlisted man, as required by the act establishing this Bureau. It is to be regretted that monthly reports of many organizations are wanting, having been lost or destroyed in campaign; especially when wagon trains were taken by the enemy, or burned by our troops to prevent their capture. The monthly reports counted 9,558 cards.

The carding of selected documents (enlistment papers, casualty lists, scattered rolls, miscellaneous records, etc., from steel boxes, and volumes from steel closets in the archives) gives a total of 34,785. The cards written for the entire year figure 44,343.

The sorting, arranging and placing alphabetically for publication of the cards of every company, regiment, independent battery of light artillery (Massachusetts had no regiments of that arm; batteries were all independent), troops, squadrons, battalions and regiments of cavalry, now foot up to 876,348.

The naval work of this year has been carried on with its usual extreme care and exactitude by Mr. Charles D. Densmore, the naval clerk, who is never satisfied with anything which he has in charge until he has gone to the bottom of it and exhausted the subject. He has written 340 letters to the Bureau of Navigation during the year, and has received 350 in reply. These not only represent the final disposition in each letter, but in many cases the department has sent the record, including, of course, the final discharge which is the most important point, to this Bureau, to the number of three or four or more services in one letter.

In order to illustrate what comes in reply to the requests from this Bureau I will give the following specimens: there have been received from the Navy Department *57 records corrected*, from the index; *36 new men* are reported as having been credited to Massachusetts, but never before recorded on the navy rolls; *6 transfers from army to navy* appear; the *connections of service number 148*; the *discharge dates corrected number 13*; desertions removed number 5; the places of enlistment changed on the rolls are *20 in number*.

This list is selected to show the variety of information which is required to perfect the records of service of sailors. It is no small part of the work remaining to be done by the naval clerk, which is to record carefully and exactly the contents of these letters, which give without any further inquiry the actual state of the man's service and final disposition. Certificates of service can be safely made from these reports by The Adjutant General's department.

As has been remarked in former annual reports, it is a pleasure to acknowledge once again the obligation of this Bureau to the Navy Department, and, to be more particular, to the Bureau of Navigation, for the extreme courtesy which has invariably been extended during these years of obtaining the records of officers and sailors serving on the quota of this Commonwealth. The Bureau acknowledges this kindness with sincere thanks.

A great deal has been done in the way of clearing and perfecting the records of the men who were transferred from their regiments to the Veteran Reserve Corps after being disabled by wounds preventing further active service, or enlisted again in the Veteran Reserve Corps where they were able to perform light duties such as their condition allowed. Up to the present time many of their records of service lack the honorable discharge without which they are not in good standing on the rolls. A part of the importance attending the work of the compiler in Washington is perfecting the records of these men. Quite a number had not served in Massachusetts troops but enlisted in the Veteran Reserve Corps after discharge for disability from regiments of other States, to the credit of Massachusetts, and therefore are credited to this Commonwealth, receiving their bounty therefrom.

The past year has been in all ways the most laborious of all which have passed since the work began in 1900. The change in the pension laws, the carrying out of the gratuity act with its amendments, and the great consequent volume of information required by the Commission on Gratuities in order that there might be no question as to the records of all applicants for the gratuity being in every way honorable, has brought about endless inquiries by that commission of the Bureau, which is, and necessarily ought to be, the source of the latest and most reliable information concerning the standing of soldiers and sailors of the civil war. This has entailed a wide correspondence in connection with the investigations of the custodian of the military archives of The Adjutant General, Mr. Baker, whose experience and knowledge are such as to fit him fully for the task of executive clerk of the commission. Being very much occupied not only with this business but with the compilation of the records of the soldiers of Massachusetts and Maine who served in the war of 1812 (which compilation is now published), the custodian has had the

aid of this Bureau in the necessary correspondence, which has not only been of service to him, but has brought to the knowledge of the Bureau the post-office address of many veterans whose records needed correction. This has been accomplished through their exhibiting honorable discharges to the compiler, thus completing the service in full of several hundred veterans.

A proposed additional amendment to the gratuity act seems likely to pass in the next session of the General Court, with a probable result that quite a number of final discharges to services lacking these will come to light.

I cannot willingly close this report without saying a word in appreciation of the clerks of this Bureau. The men have all been in the service, and have occupied positions during, and subsequently from the time of the civil war, which have prepared them in great measure for the experience of the work here. There is no question that the knowledge gained in their army and navy life has, through their faithful and intelligent efforts, expedited the work, which will permit of the beginning of publication, as previously intimated in this paper, early (as I hope) in the new year now upon us.

Several of the members of the Bureau staff have died since the work began: Captain Wilson, for years in charge of the naval records in this Bureau, and who distinguished himself greatly in the battle at Fort Morgan, Mobile Bay, and elsewhere under Farragut; Captain Hill, a very gallant officer of the 19th Massachusetts Volunteers, whose eyesight failing in the strenuous work on the faded rolls, compelled him to resign (he was afterwards treasurer of the city of Salem until his death); Captain Reed of the 32d Massachusetts, whose recent death was unquestionably due to his severe wound at Cold Harbor; Mr. Brown, highly regarded for his famous saving of the trains of his division under heavy fire and extremely difficult circumstances; Mr. Perley, one of three brave brothers serving in the 36th Massachusetts Infantry. They have all contributed most faithful, efficient and intelligent service as members of the force of this Bureau, and the living members of the corps now actively engaged in the work, after exceptionally brave and meritorious service by land and sea in the civil war, have deserved sincere commendation for untiring efforts to expedite and perfect the undertaking, in some cases cutting or disregarding vacations in their interest in their work.

Of the women engaged in this work I can only say that they have almost without exception intelligently and earnestly endeavored to perform their duties to the best of their ability, and have succeeded in winning the approbation of all who have observed them. It is a difficult thing for girls to become adepts in military information so as to be of much value in an office like this without considerable training; but those now engaged upon the undertaking have shown

much ability, and have accomplished more than might have been expected in a branch upon which they have had no special education.

Four bright girls have left the Bureau to secure better salaries than the commission was able to pay. One extremely sad case was that of one (the only woman in the State who had ever passed the civil service examination in military affairs) who overworked year after year in spite of all that could be done to restrain her, and who eventually was obliged to resign and enter a sanitarium, where she has been for several years. She would have been a great loss to any department in the Commonwealth where she might have been employed.

I have been able to secure girls to take the places of those who have left, who are now trained and instructed to the point of being as well fitted and valuable members of the office staff in their peculiar work as the men are in theirs.

I have the honor to be, General,

Very respectfully,

EDWARD T. BOUVÉ,

*Compiler of War Records.*

GARDNER W. PEARSON,

*The Adjutant General, Commissioner on War Records.*





REPORT  
OF THE  
COMMISSIONER  
ON  
WAR RECORDS.

JANUARY, 1915.



BOSTON:  
WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,  
32 DERNE STREET.  
1915.

APPROVED BY  
THE STATE BOARD OF PUBLICATION.



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

## REPORT.

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives.*

In accordance with chapter 211, Acts of 1912, I have the honor to submit herewith the following report as Commissioner on War Records.

While responsible to the Legislature as commissioner, the actual work of the Board is in charge of Col. Edward T. Bouvé, the compiler of war records, who is in charge of the office.

The work for 1914 is covered by the following extract from the report to me of the compiler, which has my approval: —

I submit report of this Bureau for the year ending Nov. 30, 1914.

The following Massachusetts regiments saw service in the civil war: —

- 5 regiments, 1 battalion and 1 light battery (3 months' service).
- 1 battery and 1 company infantry (6 months' service).
- 17 regiments and 1 battery (9 months' service).
- 5 regiments (100 days).
- 13 unattached companies (90 days).
- 10 unattached companies (100 days).
- 10 unattached companies (1 year).
- Boston Cadets, Salem Cadets, and 4th battalion infantry.
- 42 regiments infantry.
- 2 companies sharp shooters.
- 4 regiments, 1 battalion and 2 unattached companies heavy artillery.
- 15 batteries light artillery.
- 5 regiments and 1 battalion cavalry.
- A total of approximately 150,000 men.

The records of all these regiments have been completed with the exception of the individual records of the members of these regiments who have seen other service than from this State, namely, the records of Massachusetts officers and enlisted men in the regular army, Veteran Reserve Corps, United States Colored Troops, and in organizations of other States.

The compiler is now in Washington at work upon the completion of these individual records.

On December 1 there were about 18,000 officers and men from Massachusetts whose records had not been completed as to their final discharge from United States service.

In addition, there are the names of about 11,000 men from this State recorded as deserters. In going over the government records, however, many of these records of desertion may prove to have been removed. This work remains to be completed.

Upon the completion of the work noted in the two foregoing paragraphs, the records of the men who served in the land forces of Massachusetts will have been completed and will then be ready for the printer.

It would be unbusinesslike to begin the printing of the records of any of the Massachusetts regiments until all these data have been completed, for the reason that the record would not be a complete one, as far as the individual military record of the officer or enlisted man was concerned. Therefore we should wait until every record has been completed before starting the printing of the records.

#### NAVY RECORDS.

Approximately 36,000 men from Massachusetts served in the United States Navy during the civil war. These records have been practically completed. There are, however, many names, in the Navy Department at Washington, for which this office is waiting complete returns. As soon as these returns are received, the printing of the naval records should be immediately started. During the year 1,695 naval and marine records were finished, and 239 additional records of men who served in the Navy have been added to the total list.

#### CERTIFICATES OF SERVICE.

In addition to the compiling of the records of the civil war, this office issues the certificates which show service performed by citizens of Massachusetts in the civil war and in the Spanish war.

One thousand five hundred and ninety-four certificates were issued on account of the civil war service and 342 on account of Spanish war service. These requests come from the following persons:—

Commissioner of State and Military Aid.

Soldiers and sailors.

Soldiers' wives; sailors' wives.

Soldiers' widows; sailors' widows.

Soldiers' children; sailors' children.

Attorneys for soldiers and sailors, and their widows.

Burial agents.

State-aid agents from towns.

Town clerks.

Selectmen from towns.  
Overseers of the poor (city of Boston and towns).  
City hospital and other hospitals in Massachusetts or elsewhere.  
Other city institutions.  
Information for pensions for soldiers and sailors, and their widows.  
Members of the Massachusetts Senate.  
Members of the Massachusetts House of Representatives.  
Special pension examiners from Washington, D. C.  
Federal departments.  
Officials of other States.  
Grand Army posts.  
Sons of Veterans.  
All other persons desiring information about soldiers and sailors.

Considerable time is given up every day to looking up these records.

#### CARDING.

During the year the monthly reports of the 3d, 4th and 5th regiments of cavalry, the 1st, 2d, 3rd, 4th regiments and 1st battalion of heavy artillery, and the 1st to 16th (inclusive) batteries of light artillery of Massachusetts Volunteers were carded, — a total of 6,819, making a grand total of names carded in this manner of 61,574.

Unfortunately, monthly reports of quite a number of regiments are lacking through having been lost in campaign, captured, or in other ways.

Besides the work on monthly reports there have been carded from various sources about 1,400 records. This completes the carding, with the exception of the list of general officers who served in the United States Army.

During the year there have been compared and completed from descriptive books in the archives 7 regiments of infantry, 2 of heavy artillery, 18 light batteries, 4 nine months' regiments of infantry, — a total of 25,655 records; from muster and elective rolls of Hancock's Corps, brigade bands and miscellaneous papers of various Massachusetts regiments, 1,536 records, — a total of 27,191.

Total number of cards transcribed to date is 884,570.

#### RECOMMENDATION.

I recommend that in section 3 of chapter 475 of the Acts of 1899 the portion of the law relating to the date of *muster-in* should be stricken out, and also that relating to the *municipality to which a man was assigned*; in most cases the dates of muster-in and of enlistment are the same, and since the date of service is considered as that of enlistment, the date of muster-in is unnecessary. *The city or town to which a man was credited* should not be shown, because no important significance can be attached to the statement in view of the manner in which men were credited to the different cities and towns.

I recommend that chapter 475 of the Acts of 1899 be still further amended by striking out the following lines: "*To what municipality assigned or on what quota service was rendered;*" also that the last sentence of section 3 which reads: "*The said publication shall also contain the quotas of the state and the number of men required of, and the number furnished by each municipality in the Commonwealth for the War of the Rebellion, and such general statistics of regimental losses or other summaries of facts as the Commissioner of War Records shall deem appropriate.*"

This work is very painstaking and on account of its detail requires much time. It is believed that this year the uncompleted records of all soldiers and sailors will be finished and the matter ready to be prepared for the printer.

It should be borne in mind that a great deal of the time of the employees of this Bureau is at present taken up in looking up records for the issuance of certificates of service in the civil and Spanish wars. This work takes more time now than ever before, and will continue to require service and time for some years to come.

Respectfully,

EDWARD T. BOUVÉ,  
Major, United States Volunteers.

I desire to call your attention to the necessity for careful and painstaking work which this department calls for. It is so much in detail that it cannot be hurried without running the risk of making errors.

I am firmly of the opinion, however, that this year will practically see the end of the compiling of the records, and with the beginning of 1916 the matter will be ready to send to the State printer.

Respectfully submitted,

CHAS. H. COLE,  
The Adjutant General, Commissioner on War Records.

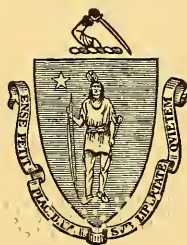
FEB. 1, 1915.





REPORT  
OF THE  
COMMISSIONER  
ON  
WAR RECORDS.

JANUARY, 1917.



BOSTON:  
WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,  
32 DERNE STREET.  
1917.

PUBLICATION OF THIS DOCUMENT  
APPROVED BY THE  
SUPERVISOR OF ADMINISTRATION.



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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## REPORT.

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*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives.*

In accordance with chapter 211, Acts of 1912, I have the honor to submit herewith the following report as Commissioner on War Records.

I have conducted the work of the Bureau of War Records through the medium of Maj. Edward T. Bouvé, the compiler and executive officer of the Bureau. Having followed the work with close attention I am satisfied that it is being done in a thorough and businesslike manner, and I consequently adopt the following report of the compiler of war records as my own.

GARDNER W. PEARSON,  
*Commissioner.*



## REPORT OF THE COMPILER OF WAR RECORDS.

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Adjutant General GARDNER W. PEARSON, *Commissioner on War Records, Commonwealth of Massachusetts.*

GENERAL:— I have the honor to submit the following consolidated report of the work of the Bureau of War Records for the years 1915 and 1916:—

All regimental rolls and papers of the Massachusetts men who saw service in the civil war, on file in the archives of The Adjutant General of this Commonwealth, have been carded and compiled to the number of over 880,000. There still remains to perfect this work the final records of over 10,000 men serving in organizations from Massachusetts; from 6,000 to 8,000 men from this Commonwealth serving in regiments of other States, in the regular army, in the Veteran Reserve Corps and in the United States Colored Troops. This needed information can only be obtained from the War Department, at Washington, where there are rolls and papers on file which contain the final termination of service of many men who were not present to be mustered out with their companies. Possibly they were absent sick in some hospital or held at a parole camp as prisoners of war, or, for various other reasons, unable to be present at that time. This final information has never been reported to The Adjutant General's office here.

On Dec. 1, 1914, the Bureau reported that there were about 18,000 officers and enlisted men from this Commonwealth whose records were not complete as to their final discharge from the United States service; also some 11,000 men who were reported as deserters. During the past two years over 15,000 of these records have been examined at the War Department, at Washington, and the Bureau furnished with finals. In the course of the work numerous errors have been discovered and rectified. These errors had been standing

against the names of the soldiers for all these years. It is needless to state that as fast as the information is received from Washington it is at once entered upon the rolls on file here.

The importance of looking into every case of desertion may be understood from the fact that out of several hundred such charges found in the first five regiments of infantry examined, seventy-five were ascertained to have been false. As a result, these seventy-five men now have honorable discharges appearing against their names on the roster books of their respective regiments. The compiler hopes, and has good reason to expect, that many more of these charges of desertion will be made void as the work progresses.

The carding is practically completed, as the list of general and staff officers who served in the United States army (regular and volunteer), or in the United States Colored Troops, or in the Veteran Reserve Corps was finished during the past year.

Many errors in the spelling of names were found in the card index of the Massachusetts soldiers in the civil war; so many, in fact, that it was thought advisable to spend some considerable time in correcting them. This was carried out as far as the errors were discovered, and will continue to be done whenever necessary.

The naval work of the Bureau was carried on by the naval clerk, Mr. Charles D. Densmore, up to the time of his illness in the early part of the year, which finally resulted in his death, July 13, 1916. The list of naval officers, some 2,200 in number, is ready for publication. Two hundred and eighty-one letters were written to the Bureau of Navigation and an equal number of replies received. In addition to these 281 there were many others written to Grand Army posts, individuals, etc., relative to Massachusetts men who had service in the navy. All information received was carefully noted and entered on the navy rolls for future reference. Since the death of Mr. Densmore the compiler, with the assistance of two of the clerks, has continued this part of the work. All records are being carefully examined and letters prepared to be forwarded to the Navy Department in all

cases where there is any question as to the sailor's naval history.

The death of Mr. Densmore is a great loss, not alone to the Bureau, but also to the State. He had been in charge of the naval work of the office some thirteen years, succeeding the late Capt. Charles Webster Wilson, U. S. N. In all ways he proved himself most efficient. No one could have been more faithful or more interested than was he in all that he undertook. He was well informed on all matters pertaining to naval affairs, having served bravely in the navy during the civil war. I might add that he was in all ways the right man for the place.

The Bureau, in addition to compiling the civil war records, has issued all statements called for showing service performed by citizens of this Commonwealth during the civil war and in the Spanish war. From Dec. 1, 1914, to Oct. 27, 1916, these numbered 2,826 for service in the civil war, and 628 on account of the Spanish war. The requests for these certificates came from many sources, a partial list of which follows: —

Commissioner of State and Military Aid.

Soldiers and sailors.

Soldiers' wives; sailors' wives.

Soldiers' widows; sailors' widows.

Soldiers' children; sailors' children.

Attorneys for soldiers and sailors, and their widows.

Burial agents.

State-aid agents from towns.

Town clerks.

Selectmen from towns.

Overseers of the poor (city of Boston and towns).

City hospital and other hospitals in Massachusetts or elsewhere.

Other city institutions.

Information for pensions for soldiers and sailors, and their widows.

Members of the Massachusetts Senate.

Members of the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

Special pension examiners from Washington, D. C.

Federal departments.

Officials of other States.

Grand Army posts.

Sons of Veterans.

All other persons desiring information about soldiers and sailors.

These statements bore the signature of The Adjutant General, but a large part of the work of preparing them was done by the clerks of this Bureau. The former board of Commissioners on Economy and Efficiency recommended that this Bureau perform this work, since the cards or slips which had been compiled in the course of our work contained a great deal of important information not found on the roster books of The Adjutant General, and through research work at the War Department the Bureau had been enabled to make many corrections in the records.

This branch of the work also necessitated considerable correspondence, some 111 letters being written in reply to parties desiring further particulars as to the civil or Spanish war. Since Oct. 27, 1916, this work has been taken over by The Adjutant General's department, and is now being carried on by clerks belonging to his force.

A great deal has been accomplished during the past two years, to the satisfaction of all connected with the Bureau. An undertaking of this kind calls for close and careful attention to all details. Since accuracy has been the first consideration, the work has been and will be carried on as rapidly as possible consistent with that idea.

I have the honor to be, General,

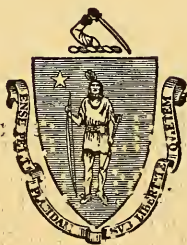
Very respectfully,

EDWARD T. BOUVÉ,  
*Compiler of War Records.*

BOSTON, Jan. 6, 1917.

REPORT  
OF THE  
COMMISSIONER  
ON  
WAR RECORDS.

JANUARY, 1918.



BOSTON:  
WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,  
32 DERNE STREET.  
1918.



PUBLICATION OF THIS DOCUMENT  
APPROVED BY THE  
SUPERVISOR OF ADMINISTRATION.

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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## REPORT.

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*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives.*

In accordance with chapter 211, Acts of 1912, I have the honor to submit herewith the following report as Commissioner on War Records.

The work of the Bureau was carried on under the direction of Maj. Edward T. Bouvé, U. S. V., as compiler, until March 1, 1917, when he felt obliged to retire owing to ill health. By his retirement this Commonwealth has lost an able and faithful worker, one who gave his entire time and thought to the best interests of the Bureau. I understand that he took but one vacation during the seventeen years of his service as compiler. Mr. William H. Alline, the first clerk, was appointed by the Governor and Executive Council to succeed Major Bouvé, and he has had charge of the work during the remainder of the year.

As Commissioner on War Records, I have followed the work being carried on, and am convinced it is being done as rapidly as can be expected consistent with accuracy.

The results of the past year are of great value and most satisfactory to me, and I consequently adopt the report of the compiler of war records as my own.

Respectfully submitted,

JESSE F. STEVENS,

*The Adjutant General, Commissioner on War Records.*

DEC. 10, 1917.



## REPORT OF THE COMPILER OF WAR RECORDS.

---

Adjutant General JESSE F. STEVENS, *Commissioner on War Records,  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts.*

COLONEL:— I have the honor to submit the report of this Bureau for the year ending Nov. 30, 1917.

The appropriation for the year 1917 was . . . . .	\$8,000 00
The expenditures were as follows:—	
Salaries, . . . . .	\$5,602 50
Office supplies and printing, . . . . .	42 67
Work at War Department, . . . . .	1,233 33
Work at Bureau of Navigation, . . . . .	231 00
	<hr/>
	7,109 50
	<hr/>
Balance returned to treasury, . . . . .	\$890 50

The work of obtaining the final records needed to complete the military history of men serving in volunteer regiments of this Commonwealth during the Civil War has been continued at the War Department, Washington, D. C.; but, owing to the crowded conditions there and the vast amount of extra work brought on by the present war, results have not been as large as had been hoped for. Over 6,100 cases have been carefully investigated, and final decisions for 5,061 have been sent the Bureau. This number includes many who were charged with desertion, as well as those having conflicting statements as to final discharge from the service.

In the report for last year the importance of examining all cases of desertion was noted, and it was shown that up to that time some 75 men had been erroneously charged with desertion, or the charge had been removed and the War Department had failed to notify The Adjutant General of Massachusetts of the

fact. During the present fiscal year 149 additional cases have been found, making in all 224 whose records have stood on the roster books of The Adjutant General of Massachusetts, since the Civil War, as that of deserters, but which now appear as having either died in a Confederate prison or in a hospital, or as having been honorably discharged from the United States service.

As fast as information is received from the War Department it is noted on the blanks or cards on file in the Bureau, all connections, corrections, etc., being made.

Considerable time and careful study has been given to determining the correct spelling of the soldier's name, all available means being used to help in deciding this important question. More than two-thirds of the records of the volunteer regiments have been gone over in this manner, and the results have proved very satisfactory.

Three hundred and eighty-six letters have been written during the year in the interest of this work, and the replies received have contained data of great value to the Bureau.

The Bureau of Navigation at Washington has furnished the office with the full record of 250 men who served in the navy, and 9 finals have come from The Adjutant and Inspector of the United States Marine Corps. These were all in response to an equal number of inquiries sent by the Bureau. There now remains on the naval lists less than 125 men whose records are incomplete as to their final disposition. Doubtless these can and will be obtained early in the coming year, so that this part of the work will be finished and can at once be put in typewritten form for the use of the printers when needed.

The question is often asked as to how much further time will be required to complete this undertaking. I can best answer it by referring to my letter of March 21, 1917, addressed to The Adjutant General, relative to chapter 40 of the Resolves of 1917, in which I stated that "it is hoped and believed that with the appropriation for next year all information required to complete our work can be obtained from the War Department." It is impossible to state exactly how many final records can be secured at the Department, as no two cases are

alike; some can be obtained easily, while others require a great amount of research work before decision can be given. It should be noted that work cannot be *started* either at the War Department or at the Bureau of Navigation until the appropriation has been approved, and must not *continue* after the close of the fiscal year, November 30. This means a loss of at least three months' time in procuring these records of service.

Very respectfully,

WILLIAM H. ALLINE,  
*Compiler of War Records.*

DEC. 8, 1917.

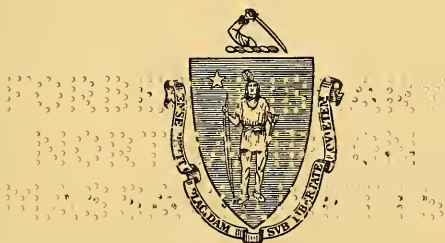
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REPORT  
OF THE  
COMMISSIONER  
ON  
WAR RECORDS.

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JANUARY, 1919.



BOSTON:  
WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,  
32 DERNE STREET,  
1918.

PUBLICATION OF THIS DOCUMENT  
APPROVED BY THE  
SUPERVISOR OF ADMINISTRATION.

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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## REPORT.

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*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives.*

In accordance with chapter 211, Acts of 1912, I have the honor to submit herewith the following report as Commissioner on War Records.

The work of the Bureau has been carefully carried on during the past year under the direction of Mr. William H. Alline, the compiler, notwithstanding the many interruptions owing to existing war conditions.

As Commissioner on War Records, I have followed the work being done with careful attention, and am satisfied that it is being performed in a thorough manner, and I consequently adopt the report of the compiler as my own.

Respectfully submitted,

JESSE F. STEVENS,

*The Adjutant General, Commissioner on War Records.*



## REPORT OF THE COMPILER OF WAR RECORDS.

---

Adjutant General JESSE F. STEVENS, *Commissioner on War Records,  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts.*

COLONEL:— I have the honor to submit the report of the Bureau of War Records for the year ending Nov. 30, 1918.

The work of the publication of the Civil War records has been pushed as fast as possible during the past year in consideration of the unusual interruptions owing to the present war, and the many other annoyances with which it has been obliged to contend. This Bureau is not alone in this respect, as other departments have suffered in the same way.

It was not until September that the work of obtaining final records at the War Department in Washington could be started. This was caused by the extreme difficulty in obtaining dependable clerical help, those having considerable initiative and experience in the files being necessary, as this work requires very painstaking, accurate care. Nevertheless, since that time the number of completed records received has more than exceeded our expectations, some 1,000 final decisions having been furnished. These were mostly of men serving in the 30th, 31st and 32d regiments of Massachusetts infantry. Included in this figure are 22 additional cases where desertion had been charged erroneously and such charges had been removed. These, added to the 224 previously reported, make a total of 246 men whose records now stand cleared on the roster books of The Adjutant General of Massachusetts.

It is most satisfactory to me to be able to report that of the approximately 36,000 men from Massachusetts, who served in the United States navy during the Civil War, *every one* (officer, marine and enlisted man) now has a final record standing against his name on our navy lists.

## COMMISSIONER ON WAR RECORDS.

During the past year the Bureau of Navigation and The Adjutant and Inspector of the United States Marine Corps, at Washington, have forwarded returns, in response to letters from this Bureau, which have enabled us to attain this result.

Duplicate typewritten lists of all the officers and a large number of the enlisted men in the navy, and all the officers and enlisted men in the Marine Corps, have been prepared for use when publication is ordered.

Similar lists are being made of the Massachusetts troops, with practically all the short-term regiments completed. All this work is carefully verified in order that this compilation shall be as free as possible of errors, and contain a complete, accurate history of every Massachusetts man who served in the Civil War, army or navy.

There has been considerable correspondence with Adjutants General of other States, city and town officials, Grand Army posts, and individuals, resulting in much valuable information, all of which has been carefully noted against the proper record.

The appropriation for the year 1918 was . . . . \$7,000 00

The expenditures were as follows: —

Salaries, . . . . .	\$5,190 00
Office supplies and printing, . . . . .	45 69
Work at War Department, . . . . .	1,033 33
Work at Bureau of Navigation, . . . . .	93 38
	<hr/>
	6,362 40

Balance returned to treasury, . . . . . \$637 60

It is hoped that, with satisfactory clerical help available and conditions improved at the War Department, Washington, the war being over, it will be possible to procure such a number of final records during the coming year as will offset the loss incurred during the year 1918.

Very respectfully,

WILLIAM H. ALLINE,

*Compiler of War Records.*

Dec. 12, 1918.







REPORT  
OF THE  
COMMISSIONER  
ON  
WAR RECORDS

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JANUARY, 1920



BOSTON  
WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS  
32 DERNE STREET  
1920

[illegible]

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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## REPORT.

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*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives.*

In accordance with chapter 211, Acts of 1912, I have the honor to submit herewith the following report as Commissioner on War Records.

The work of the Bureau has been faithfully and carefully carried on during the past year under the supervision of Mr. William H. Alline, the compiler.

As Commissioner on War Records, I have familiarized myself with the work, and am convinced that it is being done in a thorough and accurate manner. Consequently I adopt the report of the compiler as my own.

Respectfully submitted,

JESSE F. STEVENS,

*The Adjutant General, Commissioner on War Records.*



## REPORT OF THE COMPILER OF WAR RECORDS.

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Adjutant General JESSE F. STEVENS, *Commissioner on War Records,  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts.*

GENERAL:—I have the honor to submit the report of the Bureau of War Records for the year ending Nov. 30, 1919.

The Bureau has continued its work at the War Department, Washington, D. C., obtaining the final information needed to complete the history of Massachusetts men serving in the Civil War, and report some 1,647 records investigated. Included in this figure are 44 cases where charge of desertion had been erroneously made. With the 246 previously reported there are now 290 men whose services are noted on their respective roster books as honorable. It was not until late in April that the appropriation was available for this special work, so it was not undertaken until some time in May, and necessarily the returns are not as large as was expected. It will be noted from the financial statement shown at the end of the report that the Bureau this year has returned over \$700 to the treasury of the Commonwealth, and in 1918 turned back over \$600. Could these two amounts have been used, most of the remaining incomplete records would have been settled.

The following organizations at this time are practically finished: the 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th and 8th Regiments of Infantry, 3d Battalion of Rifles and 1st Light Battery (three-months men), about 5,500; 8th Battery and Company B, 7th Infantry (six-months men), about 200; Boston Cadets and Salem Cadets and 4th Battalion Infantry, about 800; 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th, 8th, 42d, 43d, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52d and 53d Regiments of Infantry (nine-months men), about 18,000; the 5th, 6th, 8th, 42d and 60th Regiments of Infantry (one hundred-days men), about 5,000; 33 unattached companies of infantry (ninety-days, one hundred-days and one-year men), about 3,400; the 1st, 2d, 7th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th,

13th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22d, 23d, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32d, 33d, 34th, 35th, 36th and 37th Regiments of Infantry and 2 companies of sharpshooters (3-years men), about 60,000; some 650 general officers of the United States Army, United States Volunteers and United States colored troops; all the officers and enlisted men in the United States Navy and Marine Corps, approximately 30,000. The larger part of this work is in shape for the printer's use when needed. This has meant a careful examination of all slips belonging to each man; the elimination of all duplicates; the noting of all important facts bearing upon his military or naval history, such as promotions, casualties, connections with other services, desertion, discharge, etc.

There still remain incompletd 10 regiments of infantry, 4 of heavy artillery, 15 batteries of light artillery and 5 regiments of cavalry. The number of records needed for these regiments is small, with the exception of those for the artillery and cavalry organizations.

There has been some correspondence with G. A. R. posts, town and city clerks and individuals, all of whom have furnished the Bureau with important data to be used in this compilation.

The appropriation for the year 1919 was . . . . . \$7,500 00

The expenditures were as follows: —

Salaries, . . . . .	\$5,230 00	
Office supplies and printing, . . . . .	38 79	
Work at War Department, . . . . .	1,449 99	
	<hr/>	6,718 78

Balance returned to treasury, . . . . .	\$781 22
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It is hoped that an earlier start may be made at the War Department, Washington, D. C., during the coming year than has been possible for the last two, which will enable the Bureau to show a large gain toward the completion of this work.

Very respectfully,

WILLIAM H. ALLINE,

*Compiler of War Records.*







The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONER ON WAR RECORDS

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1921

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL



BOSTON

WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS  
32 DERNE STREET



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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## REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER ON WAR RECORDS.

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*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives.*

In accordance with chapter 211, Acts of 1912, I have the honor to submit herewith the following report as Commissioner on War Records.

As Commissioner I have kept in close touch with the work of the Bureau during the past year. This work has been under the direct supervision of Mr. William H. Alline, the compiler, assisted by two able clerks, and I know that in all ways it has been performed in a careful, thorough manner, and as rapidly as possible consistent with obtaining a *correct record* for each soldier and sailor. I consequently adopt the report of the compiler as my own.

Respectfully submitted,

JESSE F. STEVENS,

*The Adjutant General,  
Commissioner on War Records.*



## REPORT OF THE COMPILER OF WAR RECORDS.

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Adjutant General JESSE F. STEVENS, *Commissioner on War Records,  
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.*

GENERAL: — I have the honor to submit the report of the Bureau of War Records for the year ending November 30, 1921.

During the past year, beginning in May, the Bureau through its agents, Leet Brothers Company, Inc., continued its investigations at the War Department, Washington, D. C., of the final disposition of some 2,100 men. These men were mostly those who saw service in two unattached companies, one battalion and four regiments of heavy artillery, fifteen batteries of light artillery, with a few miscellaneous infantry cases. Thirty-eight of this number were found to have been wrongly charged with desertion, notice of the removal of the same not having been sent to this Bureau. Added to the 323 reported in the year 1920, this makes a total of 361 men now bearing *honorable* final statements against their respective names on the roster books of The Adjutant General of Massachusetts.

Realizing the great importance of examining all desertion cases, I would again quote a statement, bearing on this subject, which appeared in a letter addressed to Hon. E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War, under date of September 11, 1865, from Provost Marshal James B. Fry: "I estimate that 25 per cent of these are not deserters in fact, but are men who became absentees unintentionally or unavoidably, and afterwards returned to duty."

The organizations completed or practically so are as follows: 5 regiments of infantry, 1 battalion of rifles and 1 light battery (three-months men), about 5,500; 8th Battery and Company B, 7th Infantry (six-months men), about 200; Boston Cadets and

Salem Cadets and 4th Battalion Infantry, about 800; 17 regiments of infantry (nine-months men), about 18,000; 5 regiments of infantry (one-hundred-days men), about 5,000; 33 unattached companies of infantry (ninety-days, one-hundred-days and one-year men), about 3,400; 40 regiments of infantry and 2 companies of sharpshooters (three-years men); the 61st Regiment of Infantry (one-year men), about 73,000; 4 regiments of heavy artillery, the 29th and 30th Unattached Companies of Heavy Artillery, and the 1st Battalion of Heavy Artillery, with 15 batteries of light artillery (three-years men), about 18,000; general officers of the United States Army, United States Volunteers and United States Colored Troops, some 650 in number; all officers and enlisted men who saw service in the United States Navy and Marine Corps, approximately 36,000.

There still remain 5 regiments of cavalry (three-years men), having about 2,600 records which need to be looked into at the War Department, Washington, D. C., as to final termination of army service and desertion charges.

Massachusetts had a number of men who, during the years 1861-65, enlisted in various branches of the regular army, and during the years 1863-65 in the Invalid Corps, or Veteran Reserve Corps as it was finally designated. These records are in a very incomplete state, in most cases the enlistment date only being known. The compiler hopes that a large part of the data needed to complete these records will be obtained during the coming year.

There has been some correspondence with Grand Army posts, town and city clerks and individuals which has added valuable information to the files of the Bureau.

The compiler in his last annual report respectfully requested and would again request that steel cases, similar to those now being used for the World War records, be furnished this Bureau for the protection of the 900,000 odd cards or slips which represent the records of the Massachusetts men in the Civil War. The estimated cost of these cases does not exceed \$2,000, and would contain in addition to the Civil War records those of the Spanish War and Philippine Insurrection.



The appropriation for the year 1921 was . . . . \$7,200 00

The expenditures were as follows:—

Salaries . . . . .	\$4,800 00	
Office supplies and printing . . . . .	75 60	
Work at War Department . . . . .	2,250 00	
	<hr/>	7,125 60

Balance returned to treasury . . . . .	\$74 40
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Very respectfully,

WILLIAM H. ALLINE.

*Compiler of War Records.*

DECEMBER 13, 1921.

A page from a manuscript, likely a liturgical book, featuring musical notation on staves. The notation consists of square neumes (black squares) placed on four-line red staves. The text is written in a Gothic script, which is a formal, black, and highly stylized script used in the late Middle Ages. The page is divided into two columns of text and music. The left column contains the main text, while the right column contains a shorter text, possibly a response or a different part of the liturgy. The staves are arranged in a regular, repeating pattern, with the text and music alternating between the two columns. The paper is aged and shows some discoloration and wear, particularly along the edges and in the center fold.

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONER ON WAR RECORDS

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1923

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL



PUBLICATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

APPROVED BY THE

COMMISSION ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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## REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER ON WAR RECORDS.

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THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, 21st December 1923.

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:—*

In accordance with Chapter 211, Acts of 1912, I have the honor to submit herewith the following report as Commissioner on War Records.

The work of the Bureau was continued during the past year under the direction of Major William H. Alline, as Compiler, assisted by two capable clerks, until April 21st, when Major Alline passed on. Major Alline served the Commonwealth faithfully for nearly twenty-eight years, and the Commonwealth lost an interested and efficient employee.

After the decease of Major Alline, Mr. Fred W. Cross, who was in charge of the Military Archives of The Adjutant General's Department, was assigned to the former duties of the Major, in addition to his own.

As Commissioner on War Records, I feel confident that the work has been performed in a thorough and painstaking manner, and I therefore adopt the report of the Compiler as my own.

Respectfully submitted,

JESSE F. STEVENS,  
*The Adjutant General,  
Commissioner on War Records.*

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE WORK OF PREPARING THE CIVIL WAR RECORDS FOR PUBLICATION.

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Adjutant General JESSE F. STEVENS, *Commissioner on War Records, The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.*

GENERAL:— On the death of Major William Henry Alline which took place April 21st of the present fiscal year you assigned the duty of superintending the preparation of the Civil War records for publication to the expert in charge of the Division of Military Archives. In this his first annual report it seems a fitting place to present an outline showing as fully and accurately as possible the present status of the work.

### WORK ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED.

1. The names of all the Massachusetts soldiers, sailors, and marines who served in the Civil War have been carded, *i.e.*, their names and their records, as far as the latter are complete, have been placed on stiff paper slips of uniform size, 8'' by 3½'', each item of a man's record appearing on a separate slip.

2. All these slips or cards of men who served in the Army have been assembled by companies and regiments or by batteries, the names of the men in each company or battery being arranged alphabetically, and the regiments and batteries being placed in consecutive order by numbers. The infantry, cavalry, heavy artillery, and light battery units, and also the M. V. M. units which were mustered into the service, are all kept in separate series where they are easy of access.

3. The slips or cards of Massachusetts men who served in the Navy are arranged alphabetically from A to Z, and the same is true of those who served in the Marine Corps. The method of collecting and assembling the records which has been outlined above is the same which has been followed in the Old Records Division of the War Department at Washington.

4. All the slips or cards referred to above are kept in steel fire-resisting cases. In the Army records, the regiments, companies, batteries, etc. are all separated by tabular cards, while in the case of the Navy and Marine Corps records tabular cards separate the different initial letters, the A's being in the first section, the B's in the next following section, and so on. The total number of cards is above 800,000.

5. In every case where new records have been found and new names taken up, cards bearing these names together with the organization in which each man served have been added to the Consolidated Card Index of Civil War Soldiers.

6. The records of practically all the men who served in Massachusetts units (with the exception of the 3d Mass. Cav.) together with those who served in various miscellaneous units of the U. S. Army, as the Signal Corps, Engineer Corps, Ordnance Department, Hospital Department, Hancock's Corps, and Brigade Bands, have been written up, *i.e.*, the chief items in each man's record have been culled from the record slips and condensed into a single short paragraph.

7. The records of nearly all the soldiers who served in Massachusetts infantry organizations, including all the infantry regiments from the 1st to the 62nd, have been typed and made ready for the printer. The same is true of those who served in the 1st to the 16th batteries of light artillery.

(The above does not include the records of men who served in the 20th and 28th Regts. of Mass. Vol. Inf. These have been written but not typed. There remain 284 records in the 28th Regt. which require verification and correction.)

The records of Massachusetts men who served in the U. S. Navy and in the U. S. Marine Corps have also been typed ready for the printer.

10. The removal of over 550 erroneous charges of desertion from the Massachusetts records is one of the most important things which has been accomplished by the Civil War Records Division.

1. Most of the records of the soldiers who served in the 20th, 28th, and 32nd Regts. of Mass. Inf., in the 1st, 4th, and 5th Regts. and 1st Bat'n. of Mass. Cav., and in various miscellaneous units of the U. S. Army have been written up as described in a preceding paragraph. This does not include those who served in the regular U. S. Inf., Art., or Cav., or some in the units named above whose records are incomplete and must be sent to Washington for completion and verification.

3. At the War Department 1,484 records have been investigated resulting in the removal of 127 charges of desertion. These together with the 426 previously reported make a total of 553 alleged desertions which have been corrected and records of honorable discharge substituted therefor.

4. All the card records of Massachusetts soldiers, sailors, and marines, which have heretofore been kept in pasteboard boxes and in constant peril from fire, have been placed in steel fire-resisting cases. These records, over 800,000 in number, represent the painstaking labor of many years, and their value to the Commonwealth cannot be estimated. Similar protection should be given to the Consolidated Card Index of Civil War Soldiers and to the Spanish War and Philippine Insurrection records, all of which are now kept in wooden cases.

6. Over 600 tabular cards have been made and put in place in the steel cases above referred to separating the regiments, companies, and batteries, and in the case of the Naval and Marine Corps records separating the names into groups according to their initial letters.

The appropriation for the year 1923 was	.	.	.	.	.	.	\$7,100 00
Transferred to another department	.	.	.	.	.	.	360 00
Balance available	.	.	.	.	.	.	\$6,740 00
The expenditures were as follows:							
Salaries	.	.	.	.	.	\$3,339 19	
Verification of records at Washington	.	.	.	.	.	1,208 33	
Steel cases for record slips	.	.	.	.	.	1,431 65	
Office incidentals	.	.	.	.	.	15 65	
Total expenditures	.	.	.	.	.	\$5,994 82	
Balance unexpended	.	.	.	.	.	745 18	
							\$6,740 00



## WORK REMAINING TO BE DONE.

1. The securing from the War Department at Washington of the following incomplete records:

United States Colored Troops . . . . .	1,900
Veteran Reserve Corps . . . . .	1,793
United States Regular Army . . . . .	1,807
General Service . . . . .	286
Signal Corps . . . . .	153
Hospital Department . . . . .	38
Ordnance Department . . . . .	14
Engineer Corps . . . . .	7
Brigade Bands . . . . .	22
Hancock's Corps . . . . .	46
28th Regt. Mass. Vol. Inf. . . . .	284
Miscellaneous . . . . .	500
Organizations from other States (estimated) . . . . .	4,500

2. The writing up of the records mentioned in the preceding paragraph, together with those of the soldiers of the 3d Regt. Mass. Cav. and those who, having a bona fide residence in Massachusetts, served in units from some other State or from the District of Columbia.

3. The typewriting of all the above records, together with those of the 1st, 2nd, 4th, and 5th Regts., and 1st Bat'n. of Mass. Cav., and the four regiments, one battalion, and two unattached companies of Mass. Hy. Art.

4. The reading back for careful verification of the typewritten sheets from the 35th Regt. Mass. Inf. to the end of the list, also the reading back of all records which may be subsequently written. This work of careful verification has made our Massachusetts Civil War records second to none in their completeness and accuracy. There is hardly a case where one of them has been even questioned in recent years. Their dependability is a subject of frequent remark on the part of special examiners from the United States Pension Bureau and others who appreciate the value of authentic sources of information. In the matter of cross indexing alone, which has been referred to under work already accomplished, our Massachusetts records are manifestly superior to those in the War Department at Washington.

5. The records of Massachusetts men who served in units from the other New England States, as far as they have been secured, have been copied from the published records of those States. These printed books are not free from errors, hence, before being finally written up for publication by Massachusetts, all such records should be most carefully verified at the offices of the Adjutants General of their respective States or at the War Department at Washington.

6. To prevent the necessity of rewriting the Regimental Roster Books of the Massachusetts regiments and batteries, some of which are now so worn as to be almost useless, work should be immediately begun on a consolidated card record of all Civil War soldiers who served to the credit of Massachusetts, that all the important data relating to each soldier's service may be found upon a single card. Such a card record could now be easily made, the data being copied directly from the sheets which have been typewritten and verified and corrected for the printer.

Respectfully submitted,

FRED W. CROSS,  
Expert in Charge of the Military Archives Division.

Dec. 1, 1923.







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